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Fall 2012 Edition

Megan Maxwell, Editor

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You are Invited to Experience *Hallowe'en at the 1897 Poe House*

BY MEGAN MAXWELL

*Come at the witching hour of eight;
And let the fairies read your fate;
Reveal to none this secret plot
Or woe— not luck —will be your lot!*

So reads an invitation for a Victorian Hallowe'en party, the holiday for bewitchment, enchantments, and divination games that would reveal the future for a generation of hopelessly romantic young girls. The Victorian Hallowe'en party was a far cry from today's festivities which may include a trip through a gruesome haunted house or a raucous adult costume party. In the late 1800s and into the early 1900s Hallowe'en parties catered to love struck teenagers hoping to find clues about their future spouses by tossing the peel of an apple or gazing into a candlelit mirror. These divination games derived from superstitions and customs that can be dated as far back as the origins of Hallowe'en itself. Trick or treating had yet to make its official appearance, but children's parties featuring smiling black cats, games, and jack-o-lanterns were becoming quite common. You can learn more about all of these Hallowe'en traditions by taking a tour of the 1897 Poe House throughout the month of October. Tours are free and they are offered at 11:00, 1:00, and 3:00 on weekdays and on the hour on the weekends.

The Poe House will be decorated with reproduction Hallowe'en décor common



from the 1890s through the 1920s. Many of the decorations and displays are based on images from *The Ladies Home Journal* magazines of the early 20th century. Handmade decorations of paper and string, as well as decoration with fruits, flowers, and harvest items of the season were popular and inexpensive. Fall leaves, chrysanthemums, and pumpkins are used throughout the house to create a festive fall feeling.

Other Hallowe'en at the 1897 Poe House events include Night Tours, a jack-o-lantern contest, and a Trick or Treat.



Gilbert Theater Actors to Portray the Poes for *Hallowe'en Revels Night Tours*

October 19-20 and 26-27 , 6:00-10:00 pm

Are you looking for something fun, family friendly, and free this Halloween? The Victorian Hallowe'en party is also the theme for our *Hallowe'en Revels Night Tours of the 1897 Poe House* taking place on **October 19-20 and 26-27 from 6:00 until 10:00 pm**. The Museum of the Cape Fear has partnered with the actors of the Gilbert Theater to bring the gothic Eastlake Victorian Poe House to life after dark. Actors will portray members of the Poe household and their friends as they prepare for a night of Hallowe'en revels. This is a great event for families with just the right amount of spookiness created by the actors and the Victorian décor, without all the screaming and gore. It also works for those on a budget because it is one of the only free events in town.

The cost is free, but you must sign up for a tour time and receive your ticket. Tours will depart every 20 minutes beginning at 6:00 pm with the last tour at 9:40 pm. Tour space will be limited to 20 participants per tour, and you may call in advance to reserve a time slot.

Hallowe'en Revels Jack-O-Lantern Contest Information and Rules



A jack-o-lantern contest will be held each weekend of the *Hallowe'en Revels Night Tours of the 1897 Poe House* (October 19-20 & 26-27) with prizes awarded to the Most Creative, Scariest, and Most Historic Jack-o-Lantern Carvings. There is no cost to enter.

- Pumpkins must be carved at home and brought to the Museum's front desk during regular business hours.
- Entries accepted Thursday Oct. 18 through Saturday Oct. 20 at 4:00 pm for the first weekend contest (Oct. 19 & 20); Entries accepted Thursday Oct. 25 through Saturday Oct. 27 at 4:00 pm for the second weekend contest.
- Jack-o-Lanterns will be displayed on the Poe House front porch while the night tours are being held and visitors may vote for their favorites in each of the three categories until 9:00 pm each Saturday night.
- Winners will be announced at 9:30 pm each Saturday night. Winners not present will be contacted the following Monday and may pick up their prize from the Museum at their convenience.
- Jack-o-Lanterns may be picked up following the contest, any pumpkin not claimed will be discarded the following Monday.
- If you want your pumpkin to glow, please include battery operated candles with your entry!!
- The Museum of the Cape Fear reserves the right to refuse any jack-o-lantern that is deemed inappropriate for any reason.

Rules

- 1) The jack-o-lantern must be carved from a real pumpkin.
- 2) The entry can only be composed of parts from a single pumpkin.
- 3) No foreign objects may be used on your finished pumpkin, such as toothpicks, glue, yarn, paint, pins, leaves, flowers, etc.
- 4) Each participant is allowed one entry.



Grants and Donations Help to Relieve Budget Woes

BY DAVID REID, ADMINISTRATOR

Continuing reductions in the State budget have made us entirely dependent on outside funds for exhibits and educational programs. We have recently received two grants to assist us in our efforts.

A Project Support Grant from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County, matched by funds from our support group, will enable us to stage an exhibit on the Wilmington Race Riot of 1898 and Fayetteville's connections to that event. The exhibit is scheduled to run March 19-June 16, 2013. The election of 1898 was dominated in North Carolina by a white supremacy campaign, which saw the establishment of White Government Union Clubs, formations of armed militia-like units, and the use of newspapers to fan the flame against the "abuses" of Republicans and "black rule." In Wilmington, the campaign led to the burning of a black newspaper office, violence, and the overthrow of elected municipal leaders. Fayetteville's connections to this event will also be explored – Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry members went to Wilmington to help keep the peace, Fayetteville-raised author Charles Chesnutt wrote about the riot in one of his novels, and the white supremacy movement was well documented in the *Fayetteville Observer*. LeRae Umfleet of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources and author of *A Day of Blood: The Wilmington Race Riot of 1898*, will come to Fayetteville in April to speak about this important piece of North Carolina history.

Megan Maxwell, Poe House Education Coordinator, applied for and received a grant from The Florence Rogers Trust. This grant is to assist with the purchase of clothing representing the American colonial period. This clothing will be worn by staff and volunteers for living history programs. The clothing adds to the educational aspect of programs and helps to create a realistic backdrop for events. Some of this clothing arrived in time for September's Festival of Yesteryear.

In addition to these grants, we have also received some wonderful public donations and sponsorships in the past few months. It is a pleasure when a donor forms an ongoing relationship with the museum. A case in point –

In 2009, Dolores Samons Harvell brought several historical items to the museum for staff to consider accepting into the museum's collections. Mrs. Harvell's grandfather owned a farm called Mont View which was absorbed into what became Camp Bragg. The artifacts she brought to us fit into the historical interpretation of the 1897 Poe House, and some of these items are now on display in the house.



Staff and volunteers wore some of the clothing purchased with the Florence Rogers Trust grant at our Festival of Yesteryear on Sept. 8.

From Left to Right: Megan Maxwell, volunteer Abby Mullis, Karen Wallace, and Leisa Greathouse

In 2011, Jennie Harvell made a financial contribution to the museum in honor of her mother, Dolores Harvell.

In 2012, Dolores contacted us. She has for years worked to establish a historic marker on the site of her grandfather's farm, and it was finally going to happen. Family members were going to gather for the dedication of the marker, and she felt sure that some of them would want to come and tour the Poe House. They did pay us a visit and were pleased to see their family's treasures on display. Dolores also made a financial contribution to the museum.

We thank Dolores for donating these artifacts to the museum and for the financial donations from her and her daughter. Donations made to the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation, Inc., are used for exhibits, educational programs and events at the museum. As the end of the year approaches, we hope that you will also consider making a donation to the museum.

Finally, we would like to thank our sponsors for the *Hal-lowe'en at the 1897 Poe House* events that are scheduled throughout the month of October: Maxwell Portable Storage, Holmes Security Systems, the Law Office of C. Douglas Maxwell, Jr., Don & Sharon Harrison, and Bill Surface. Their support allows us to advertise to increase public awareness about our free museum events and programs.



Trick or Treat at the 1897 Poe House Saturday October 27, 1:00-5:00pm

The annual Poe House Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday October 27 from 1:00-5:00 pm. This program is geared for children and they should come dressed in their Halloween costumes! This year's event features a costume contest and traditional Halloween carnival games for the kids. Learn how to make tasty Halloween treats like popcorn balls and homemade candy in the Poe House kitchen, have your fortune told, and gather around to hear a ghost story. Family fun for everyone! This is a free event. Come for the Trick or Treat and stay for the last night of our evening Poe House tours.



Trick or Treaters enjoyed the Poe House at last year's event. In addition to the fortune teller and costume contest, this year's event features carnival games and more!

Thank You to our Hallowe'en at the 1897 Poe House Sponsors

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Law Office of C. Douglas Maxwell, Jr.

Don and Sharon Harrison

William E. Surface



Volunteers: Lifeblood of the Museum

BY LEISA GREATHOUSE



The museum's volunteer program has stretched to limits that would have been hard to imagine if we weren't seeing it for ourselves. When staff was cut by 75% at the end of fiscal year 2011, volunteers began taking on new and expanded roles. To top it off, we are continually adding to our numbers.

In August 2011, the volunteers met with museum staff to look at filling tasks and duties that no longer had someone assigned to do them: manage the reservation calendar, cover Poe House and group tours, set up and break down for programs, maintain our extensive grounds, and keep the front desk covered until closing. One volunteer, Nettie McQueen, has selflessly become the coordinator for our preschool program, "Mommy, Me, and the Museum Make Three."

The past couple of months volunteers have become even more independent in their service to the museum. They have represented the museum at several events, including 4th Friday, the annual Massey Hill Classical High School Community Service Fair, and the annual Ft. Bragg Community Fair. At these events, the volunteers are speaking with hundreds of people about the museum, and promoting our programs and exhibits.

Special Event/Special Project volunteers run the information booth, supervise activities and crafts, and make rope. A couple of volunteers are organizing research files and will be making updates and revisions to our training manuals and enhancing our daily interpretation of the 1897 Poe House and Arsenal Park.

Other special projects include organizing our digital photographs, cooking on the 1902 stove in the Poe House, and maintaining the staff research library.

If you are seeing more of the museum on the surface of the community, it's because of the volunteer help going on behind the scenes that makes it possible for the

museum to offer its full range of services.

We also receive email queries from people who tell us they will be moving to the area within the next month and are interested in volunteering. We look forward to adding to the volunteer corps. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Leisa Greathouse at

leisa.greathouse@ncdcr.gov or 910-486-1330.

To that end, we welcome recent additions: Carol Scheib, Rusty Long, Heidi Crabtree, the Noble family, Rita Thomas, and Stewart Stafford.



Top Left: New volunteer Heidi Crabtree organizes the Poe family files.

Top Right: Karl Steinmetz and Ruth Aldridge lead the rope making activity at Festival of Yesteryear.

Bottom: Long time volunteer Jean Powers cooks in the Poe House kitchen.



Festival of Yesteryear Exceeds Expectations

BY MEGAN MAXWELL

Putting on an event the size of the Festival of Yesteryear with limited staff and limited funds is no small feat, add to that the pressure of trying to increase visitation and maintain the historical integrity of the program and you get one stressed out event coordinator! Fortunately all of the hard work and perseverance paid off at this year's Festival. More than 700 visitors attended the event on Saturday September 8th and comments were overwhelmingly positive.

This year's program offered the popular annual attractions of Camp Flintlock and the NC Highland Regiment, combined with new elements such the Tryon Palace Fife and Drum Corp, Thomas Tucker's Woodwright shop, and militia enlistment with Capt. Dry's Militia Company. Staff and volunteers also manned a table at the Lafayette Society's "Party in the Park," and encouraged many people to visit the Festival.

One of the most popular stops was Apprentice Alley, where kids of all ages enjoyed making colonial hats, rebus puzzles, and stencils to earn colonial currency. They were also "paid" to participate in activities such as dipping candles, making rope, and learning about crime and punishment at the Pillory. The colonial money that they earned could then be spent at our Mercantile to redeem fun prizes.

We would like to thank the many volunteers that made it possible to provide this special program for the community. We would also like to thank the interpreters and groups, many of whom travelled great distances to participate, including: Camp Flintlock, Tryon Palace Fife and Drum Corp, Capt. Dry's Militia, NC Highland Regiment, Thomas Tucker, Shannon Walker from Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson, Moore's Creek National Battlefield, Chris Woodson, Sunflower Fibers, and Jody Frasier.

An ongoing issue that faces the Museum Complex seems to be the idea that we are a "hidden gem" in the city of Fayetteville. Meaning that there are too many people in the community who have never heard of the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex. While we do our best to have our events listed on every available free listing calendar, and advertise each event as the budget allows, we are dependent on those of you who do know about us to help spread the word. Please continue to share your museum experiences with your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers and encourage them to visit, like us on Facebook, or find us on the web at museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov or ncculture.com.



Top Photo: Members of the NC Highland Regiment talk with visitors. Middle: Quill pen writing with Camp Flintlock. Bottom: Jody Frasier interprets pewtersmithing for MCFHC Foundation President Tad Prewitt.

Foundation to Hold Community Forum on Museum Plans

BY MCF HISTORICAL COMPLEX FOUNDATION

For the past four years, the Board of the MCF Historical Complex Foundation has been developing plans to leverage the existing complex to better capitalize on its historical significance. The Arsenal is a key part of the complex. As one of the South's largest arsenals, the Fayetteville site played an important role during the Civil War. Employing upwards of 2,000 men, women, and children, the Arsenal was the primary reason that Gen. Sherman had Fayetteville in his crosshairs as his army of 60,000 invaded North Carolina. Over the course of three days, his soldiers lay ruin to the Arsenal. Its destruction set the stage for what some now call "Sherman's Final March," which resulted in the largest surrender of the War at a small farm outside of Durham on April 26, 1865.

In recognition of the Poe House, plans also include a substantial examination of Reconstruction in North Carolina. The resulting museum will represent the first state museum that tackles the Civil War and Reconstruction in the United States.

Pending funding, groundbreaking is planned for March 9, 2015, the 150th anniversary of the destruction of the Arsenal.

On October 1, the Foundation presented "An Evening with Hari Jones," the Assistant Director and Curator of the African American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation and Museum. One of the foremost authorities on the role of African Americans in the Civil War, Hari presented a refreshingly new perspective on the subject for a crowd of more than 300 people. In his matter-of-fact manner, he revealed just how extensive and well organized America's African descent community was in its efforts to end slavery

Community Forum

Thursday October 11
7:00 pm

Highland Presbyterian
Church Fellowship Hall
111 Highland Avenue
Fayetteville

For More Info Call
(910) 486-1330



Hari Jones

in league with the Constitution. The information presented by Mr. Jones is just one example of an innovative approach to Civil War history that the new museum will include in the story of North Carolina during the War and its aftermath.

The Board would like to extend a special invitation to a community forum about the proposed *North Carolina Civil War and Reconstruction History Center at Arsenal Park*. The forum will be held at Highland Presbyterian Church in the fellowship hall on Thursday October 11 at 7:00 pm. Community members will have the opportunity to hear from the architects and design team of the proposed museum. Highland Presbyterian Church is located at 111 Highland Avenue in Fayetteville. For more information contact 910-486-1330.

Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation, Inc., Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____



Membership

- ☐ Individual \$25
☐ Family/Patron \$100
☐ Benefactor \$500
☐ Sustainer \$1,000

Corporate Levels:

- ☐ Museum \$500
☐ Ghost Tower \$1,000
☐ Poe House \$2,500
☐ Arsenal Park \$5,000

**If you would like to make a contribution, please write in the amount here. \$ _____*

Mail your tax-deductible check, payable to MCFHC, Inc., to Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 53784, Fayetteville, NC 28305.



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Museum Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 10-5

Sunday 1-5

1897 Poe House Tours

Tues-Fri 11:00, 1:00, 3:00

Saturday on the hour, first
tour at 10:00, last tour
at 4:00.

Sunday on the hour, first
tour at 1:00, last tour
at 4:00.

Museum Staff

David Reid
Administrator

Leisa Greathouse
Curator of Education

Megan Maxwell
1897 Poe House
Education Coordinator

Karen Wallace
Administrative
Assistant

Jim Frederickson
Carpenter

Weekend Staff
Cynthia Gates
Louise White
Maranda Keeney

And more than 50
volunteers

Experience life in the past lane....

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex consists of a NC southeast regional history museum, the 1897 Poe House, and Arsenal Park. Two floors of exhibits present the rich history of southeastern North Carolina, from the Paleo-Indian period to the first decades of the 1900s in the Museum of the Cape Fear. The fully restored and furnished 1897 Poe House, home of E.A. Poe, a Fayetteville brick maker, offers a glimpse of early twentieth-century life and the changes that defined this era. Finally, Arsenal Park marks the site commissioned in 1838 by the federal government to manufacture and store arms. The arsenal was used by the Confederacy during the Civil War, and it was destroyed by Union troops under the command of General William T. Sherman in March of 1865. Admission to the Museum Complex is free.

Upcoming Events

Holiday Jubilee

Sunday December 2
1:00-5:00 pm

The theme for this year's Holiday Jubilee is a Victorian Christmas. Highlights include a vocal concert by Fayetteville's own Coventry Carolers on the front porch of the house, photo opportunity with our Victorian Santa, "Santa's Workshop" where kids (and kids at heart) can make a wooden toy and an elf hat to keep, and hot cider and cookies. Admission is free!

Christmas at the 1897 Poe House

The 1897 Poe House will be decorated for the season with traditional Victorian décor including a Christmas tree, wreaths, garland, and a beautiful holiday table from November 27 through January 6. Tours of the house are free.



The Coventry Carolers will perform at this year's Holiday Jubilee.

January

Civil War Quiz Bowl

Mark your calendars for the annual Civil War Quiz Bowl scheduled for Thursday January 24, 2013 at 6:00 pm at the Cumberland County Library Headquarters Branch.

Mommy, Me, & the Museum Make Three

Mommy, Me, & the Museum Make Three programs are offered the 2nd Tuesday of every month and include a story and hands on craft. The program theme is different each month. Call for details. Ages 3-5 yrs with adult. FREE but pre-registration required.

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex is part of the NC Department of Cultural Resources/Division of State History Museums.



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